

Award Number: W81XWH-13-1-0155

TITLE: Electromagnetic-Optical Coherence Tomography Guidance of
Transbronchial Solitary Pulmonary Nodule Biopsy

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REPORT DATE: April 2016

TYPE OF REPORT: Annual

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) April 2016		2. REPORT TYPE Annual		3. DATES COVERED (From - To) 1 Jul 2015 – 31 Mar 2016	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Electromagnetic-Optical Coherence Tomography Guidance of Transbronchial Solitary Pulmonary Nodule Biopsy				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER W81XWH-13-1-0155	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S) Melissa J Suter, PhD Email: msuter@mgh.harvard.edu				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Massachusetts General Hospital 55 Fruit Street, Warren 4 Boston MA 02114				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Medical Research And Materiel Command Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT We present a novel high-resolution multimodality imaging platform utilizing CT and electromagnetic (EM) navigation for spatial guidance to targeted lung nodules, and OCT for microscopic volumetric imaging. The OCT optic fiber probe and EM sensor were incorporated into a single flexible catheter. The catheter was designed to be compatible with a custom peripheral transbronchial aspiration needle to enable both imaging and specimen collection. The EM sensor guides the catheter and biopsy needle to the spatial location of the pulmonary nodules and OCT images are obtained to microscopically assess the tissue.					
15. SUBJECT TERMS Electromagnetic Optical Coherence Tomography, Biopsy Guidance, Lung Cancer, Optical Microscopy					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT	b. ABSTRACT	c. THIS PAGE			USAMRMC
U	U	U	UU	9	19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer related death accounting for more deaths than breast, prostate and colon combined. Early diagnosis is critical to patient survival, however the vast majority of lung malignancies are detected only once symptoms arise and the cancer has spread, at which time patients have little chance of cure. Macroscopic imaging modalities including CT and bronchoscopy have made significant strides in increasing early detection, however they do not have the required specificity to diagnose malignancy. Diagnosis must be made on the microscopic level, which at present can only be accomplished with excisional biopsy. Unfortunately, low-risk bronchoscopic techniques for retrieving biopsy samples are hampered by low diagnostic yields, and trans-thoracic and surgical approaches carry higher intrinsic risk of complications. Given the very high false positive rates of these macroscopic imaging platforms it is imperative that high-risk procedures are avoided and the diagnostic accuracy of lower-risk approaches are greatly improved. In this proposal we aim to dramatically increase the diagnostic yield of low-risk bronchial biopsy using a novel multimodality electromagnetic and optical coherence tomography (EM-OCT) biopsy guidance platform to provide not only macroscopic spatial guidance to the lesion (using CT and EM) but to additionally confirm the needle placement within the lesion on the microscopic scale (OCT) ensuring that the needle is positioned within the target lesion prior to biopsy acquisition. Specifically we will (Aim 1) develop and fabricate an EM-OCT catheter, rotary junction and system software to facilitate real-time 3D imaging of, and navigation to, SPN for transbronchial biopsy, and (Aim 2) conduct a preclinical study to demonstrate the feasibility of EM-OCT biopsy guidance of artificial SPN (aSPN) in living swine.

2. KEYWORDS

Electromagnetic Navigation, Biopsy Guidance, Optical Microscopy, Optical Coherence Tomography, Lung Cancer, Optical needle.

3. OVERALL PROJECT SUMMARY

Aim 1: Develop and fabricate an EM-OCT catheter, rotary junction, and system software to facilitate real-time 3D imaging of, and navigation to, peripheral pulmonary lesions for transbronchial biopsy.

Task 1: Construct and electro-optical rotary junction (months 1-6)

1a: Design and fabricate a high speed, high signal throughput optical rotary junction including electrical slip rings to convey the EM sensor information.

Completed in Year 1

Task 2: Design and construct EM-OCT catheters that are compatible with standard TBNA (months 3-9)

2a: Fabricate a number of optical imaging cores based on our existing ball lens design (month 3)

Completed. We currently have a total of 10 optical imaging cores.

2b: Assemble the EM-OCT catheter ensuring accurate sensor positioning distal to the imaging optics (month 4-9)

In year 1 we fabricated 2 prototype EM-OCT catheters. The design of these catheters is shown below.

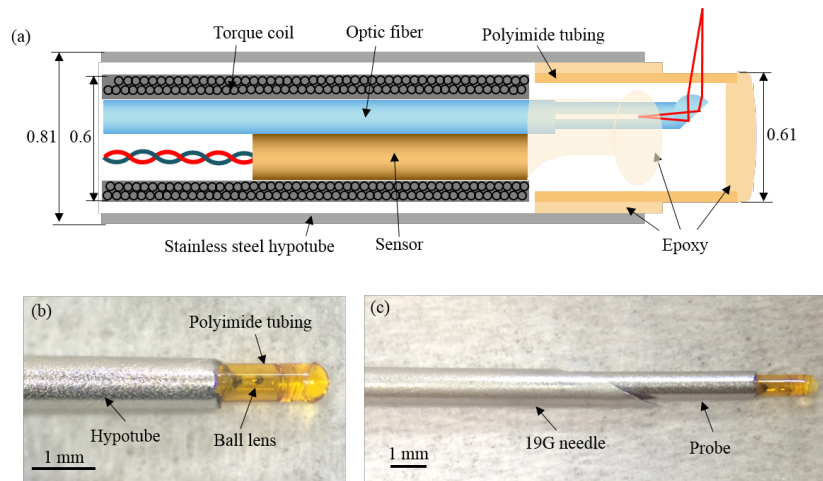
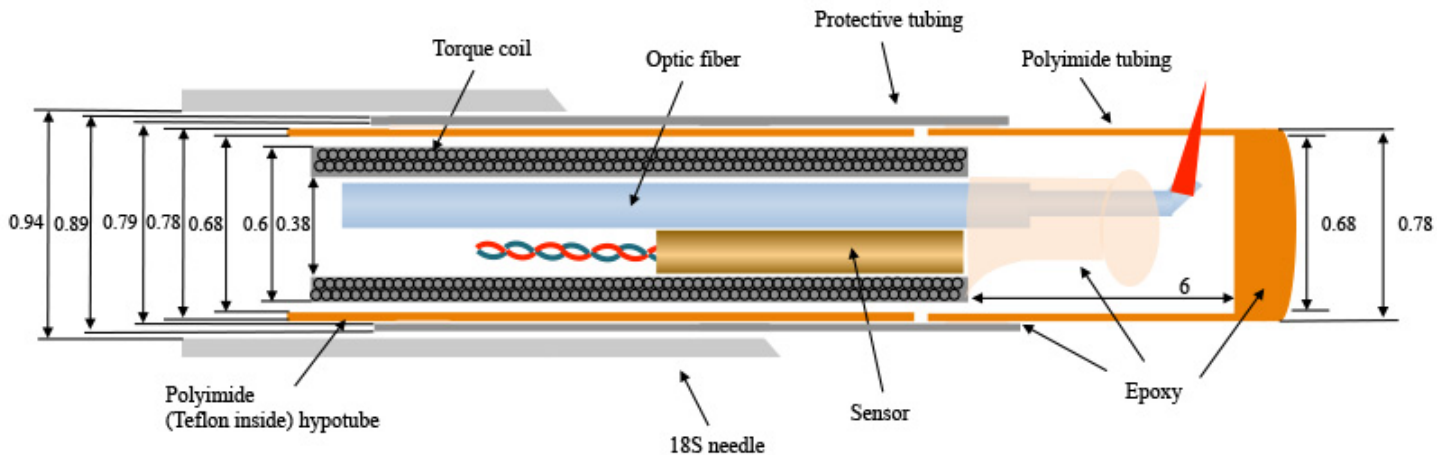


Figure: Schematic of EM-OCT probe design at the distal end, both the sensor and fiber optic probe were incorporated inside a double layer torque coil for rotational scanning. Stainless steel hypotube was used to protect the probe, and a sealed polyimide tubing was epoxied to hypotube as optical window. (b) Photograph of the distal end of the probe, the ball lens is visible through the polyimide tubing. (c) Photograph of the distal end of the probe inside 19G TBNA needle. (unit: mm)

Upon testing we found that although the catheters met all optical and electro-magnetic specifications, the completed catheter was insufficiently flexible causing issues when used transbronchially, the protective hypotube retained shape memory once used through the bronchoscope and therefore greatly increased the NURD experienced by the optical core.

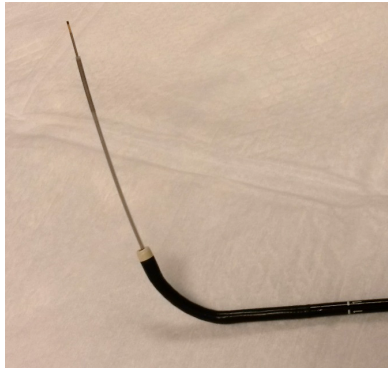
In year 2 we further redesigned the EM-OCT catheters to incorporate only a short hypotube to protect from needle damage and to instead extend the polyimide tubing the length of the catheter.



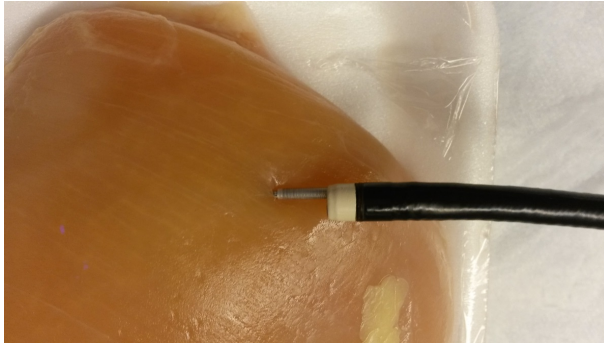
2c: Test the optical and electrical performance and calibrate the precise optical viewing angle and EM sensor position for each catheter

The optical parameters of our most recent EM-OCT catheters is as follows.

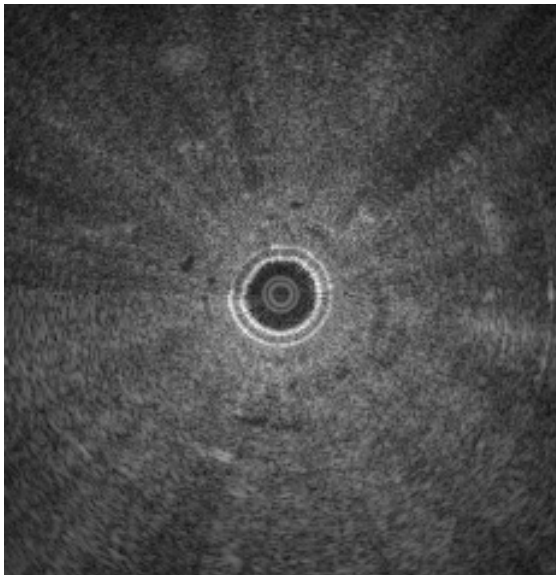
- Current prototype optical parameters: ball lens radius: $r_s=106 \mu\text{m}$, $r_t=136 \mu\text{m}$; Focus length: $f_s=791 \mu\text{m}$, $f_t=868 \mu\text{m}$; Spot size: $D_s=17.8 \mu\text{m}$, $D_t=16.5 \mu\text{m}$; Polished angle: 41 degree; Optical length: 2070 mm; Output power: 29 mW



Photograph of the EM-OCT catheter extending out of the TBNA needle through the bronchoscope.

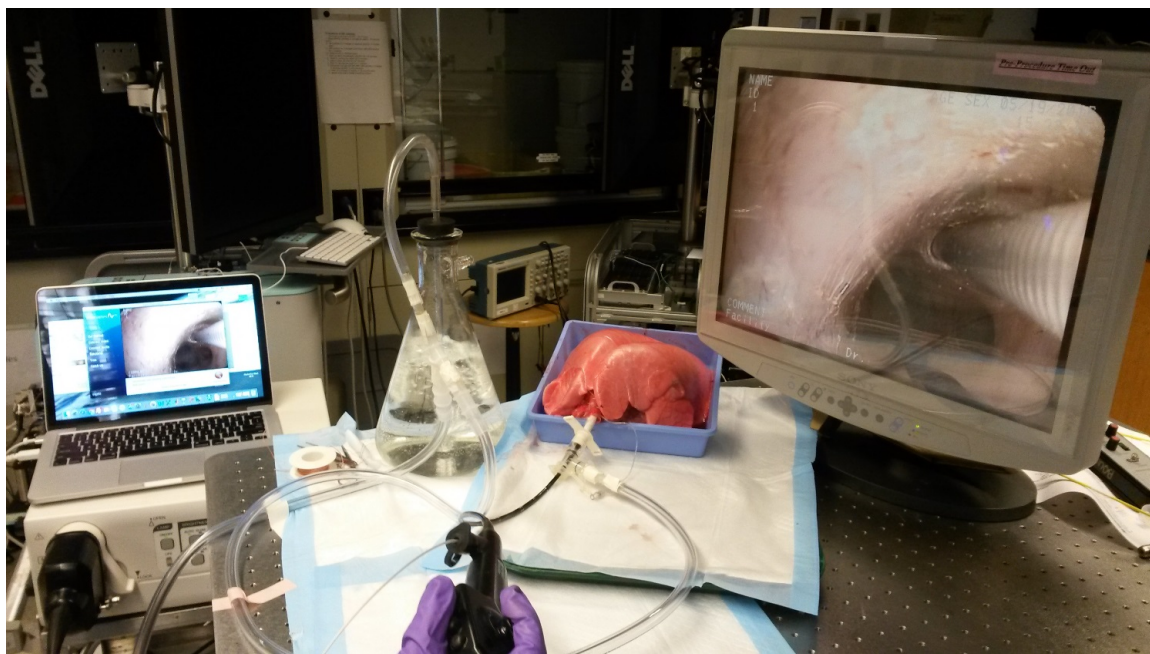


Testing the OCT image quality of the catheter in solid tissue



OCT image showing visualization of tissue structure (raw chicken breast to simulate solid pulmonary nodule)

We subsequently conducted transbronchial tests of the EM-OCT catheter ex vivo swine lungs however during imaging the catheter was broken. We believe that this was due to NURD caused by excessive bending of the distal end of the catheter. We are currently in the process of fabricating an additional catheter to isolate the failure cause.



Ex vivo testing of the EM-OCT catheter in inflated swine lungs ex vivo.

Task 3: Design and develop navigational software to provide real time tracking of the catheter position within the tracheobronchial tree (months 6-18)

We completed this Task in Year 1 of the proposal.

Aim 2: Conduct a preclinical study to demonstrate feasibility of EM-OCT biopsy guidance of artificial SPN (aSPN) in living swine (n=6).

Task 4: Validation and refinement of catheter tracking within artificial lungs

We completed this Task in Year 2 of the proposal.

Task 5: Conduct swine studies to demonstrate the feasibility of EM-OCT transbronchial biopsy guidance and to determine the potential increase in the diagnostic yield over conventional biopsy approaches. (NCE)

Due to problems arising in the mechanical properties of our EM-OCT catheters that have necessitated a number of catheter prototype redesigns and also due to delays in obtaining preclinical animal study approval from ACURO for our MGH approved Protocol 2013N00053 we have not yet commenced the preclinical studies necessary to complete this proposal. We have formally requested and received a No Cost Extension of 6 months in order to complete these studies.

Prior to conducting the in vivo studies we conducted a number of tests with our initial EM-OCT catheter in freshly excised human lungs however, we found that the revised design of the EM-OCT catheter was too rigid and thus retained shape memory when working tortuous paths to peripheral nodules. These mechanical limitations were unacceptable for seamless integration into current TBNA clinical procedures and therefore we have since redesigned the EM-OCT catheter for a 3rd and 4th time (see Task 2).

Although mechanical issues with the catheter design were noted, we were able to successfully navigate and obtain images from human lungs obtained at autopsy and were able to successfully identify features according to our previously published OCT image interpretation criteria (see figure below).

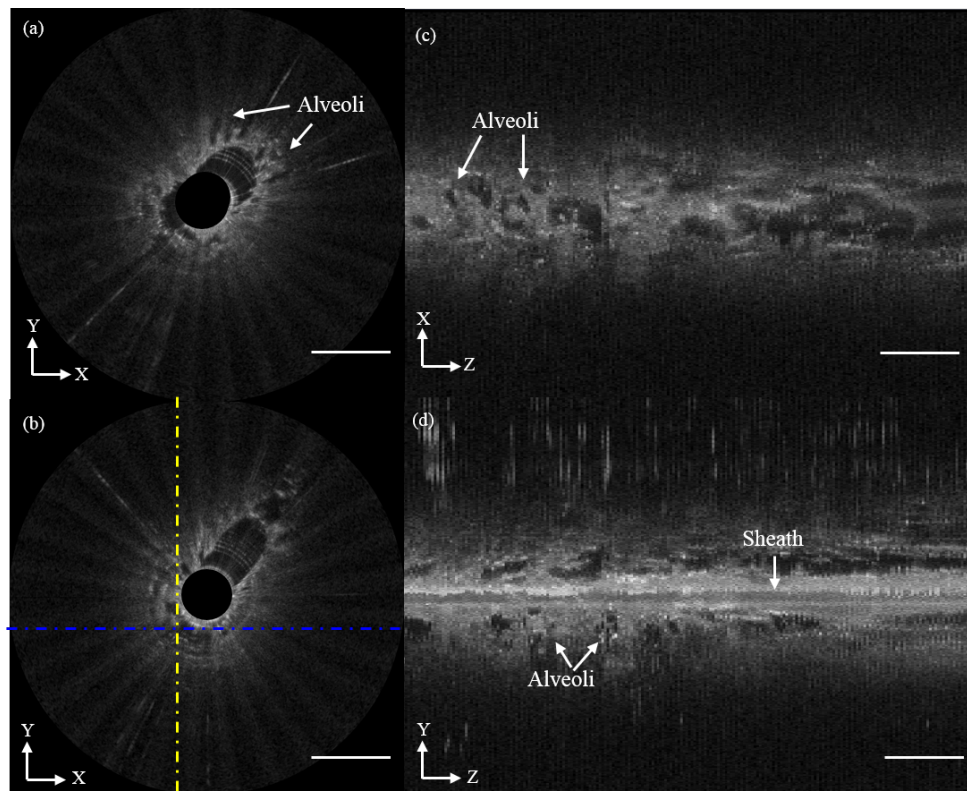


Figure: Ex vivo OCT images of human lung parenchyma acquired with the EM-OCT catheter. Alveoli show as the signal void pockets in the images. (a) and (b): Cross sectional images; (c) and (d): longitudinal images along pullback, in XZ and YZ plane respectively. Longitudinal slices (c) and (d) were taken from the blue and yellow lines in (b) respectively. Scale bar: 1 mm.

4. KEY RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Nothing to report.

5. CONCLUSION

We have accomplished many of the milestones outlined above for this research proposal. Though we have run into a number of challenges with the mechanical properties as outlined in this report we expect to complete the remaining tasks within the remaining months of this award under no cost extension.

Our objective is to develop, test and validate an EM-OCT biopsy guidance platform that is compatible with standard bronchoscopy techniques and greatly increases the diagnostic yield of bronchial biopsy. This objective is in line with the following LCRP Area of Emphasis: ***“Identification or development of non-invasive or minimally invasive tools to improve detection of the initial stages of lung cancer.”*** Increasing the diagnostic yield of transbronchial biopsy approaches may reduce the number of high-risk surgical diagnostic procedures performed, and when coupled with CT screening may increase the early detection of lung cancer.

Specifically we envision that following the identification and gross localization of a nodule by CT, a low-risk transbronchial biopsy will be acquired for diagnosis using EM-OCT guidance rather than a higher-risk transthoracic or surgical diagnostic procedure. The EM-OCT biopsy guidance platform will (1) provide spatial guidance to the lesion through real-time tracking the location of the biopsy needle within the lung using the previously reconstructed CT roadmap of the tracheobronchial tree, and (2) will provide microscopic OCT guidance to ensure that the needle is positioned within the lesion prior to biopsy acquisition.

6. PUBLICATIONS, ABSTRACTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Abstract/Oral Presentation:

1. Wang Y, Jagadeesan J, Adams DC, Miller AJ, Hariri LP, Vosburg K, **Suter MJ**. Electromagnetic optical coherence tomography for assessment of the pulmonary airways. SPIE Photonics West; 2014 February, San Francisco, CA USA: 8927-41.
2. Wang Y, Shishkov M, Vosburgh KG, Hariri LP, Adams DC, Miller AJ, San-Jose Estepar R, Lanuti M, Bouma BE, **Suter MJ**. Electromagnetic optical coherence tomography guided needle biopsy of lung nodules. SPIE Photonics West; 2015 February, San Francisco, CA, USA: 9304-120.
3. Holz JA, Wang Y, Shishkov M, Adams DC, Hariri LP, Channick CL, Keyes CM, Lanuti M, **Suter MJ**. Needle catheter optical coherence tomography in lung tissue. SPIE Photonics West; 2016 February, San Francisco, CA, USA: 9691-51

7. INVENTIONS, PATENTS AND LICENSES

Nothing to report.

8. REPORTABLE OUTCOMES

Nothing to report.

9. OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Nothing to report.

10. REFERENCES

None

11. APPENDICES

None

SUPPORTING DATA

None